

Update Number 3



HERCULANEUM LEAD SMELTER SITE Lead Removal

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has produced this Update to keep you abreast of site activities, cleanup progress and address your concerns. Our goal is to provide an overview of the site, the problems found, the actions we have taken to address your concerns, as well as future plans.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

The health agencies are sponsoring a blood lead testing event. A unique aspect of the September event is that blood samples will be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta for analysis, instead of the Missouri State Public Health Lab as in the past. The CDC lab offers more sensitive analysis and can provide results as low as 0.3 micrograms per deciliter of blood (ug/dL), compared to State Health Lab's reportable minimum of equal to or less than 5 ug/dL.

"We're glad to be able to offer the CDC lab analysis for the up coming Herculaneum blood lead testing clinics," Scott Clardy, of the state health department, said. "We want to emphasize that this a one-time chance for people to get very precise readings and gain a much better idea of what their blood lead level is."

Herculaneum Community Blood Lead Testing Event

**Friday, September 6 - 4 pm to 8 pm and
Saturday, September 7 - 9 am to 3 pm**

**Roy E. Taylor Elementary School
Building**

Sponsored by the:

**Missouri Department of Health and
Senior Services**

Jefferson County Health Department

**Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry**

The Department of Health and Senior Services Health Consults are available at the following Website:

www.dhss.state.mo.us/PreventionAndWellness/EnvironHealth.html

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Many citizens have voiced concern about property values in Herculaneum. Progress at similar sites has shown that lead contamination does not have to be the death knell for a town.

In July 2002 the Missouri Department of Natural Resources gave a presentation to real estate professionals and lenders in Herculaneum. They talked about the experiences with the Jasper County lead contamination. There were twenty-six hundred homes, at that site, over the action level and they also had groundwater impacts. The site was listed on the National Priorities List in 1991, making it a Superfund site.

In 1994, a lead exposure study done by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services showed 25 percent of the children near the smelter had elevated blood lead (with 14 percent of children overall with elevated blood lead.) EPA began a Lead Strategy, including sampling thousands of homes all over Joplin. The City of Joplin also started a community advisory group, or CAG.

In the early days of the CAG in Joplin there was disagreement. The CAG decided that the fact that there were children with lead poisoning was the driving force for the work in Joplin. People were afraid their property values would drop drastically. The media also got involved. The Joplin Globe started constant coverage. The TV and radio stations covered lead issues and the cleanup.

The CAG took a proactive approach in Jasper County. Their activities resulted in many productive outcomes for the community,

including:

- ! The CAG attended Real Estate Board meetings;
- ! Realtors, lenders and developers worked together;
- ! Disclosure became universal in the area;
- ! Developers had soil tested prior to building, and,
- ! Some soil was replaced in new developments before people moved in.

Other positive things started to happen in the community. As yards were cleaned up, neighborhoods started taking pride in their property and began fixing up and doing repairs. Neighborhoods started to show much improvement. The school districts and the county health department started lead education programs.

There is good news in Jasper County. The percentage of children with elevated blood lead levels (greater than 10 ug/dL) has dropped to 2 percent. Real Estate values did not fall, and in fact, in the Joplin area they continue to climb. Housing starts and new developments continue. The city and county have grown at a very fast rate.

We believe the city of Herculaneum can realize these benefits as well if all “sides” of the issue pull together into a unified group. The citizens of Herculaneum have shown a very strong interest in what is happening in their town – this is invaluable. In addition to the activities carried out by the agencies working toward the cleanup, the community needs to continue to stay involved. Some ideas for what needs to

happen in Herculaneum include:

- ✓ Citizens need to continue to become educated about lead.
- ✓ Realtors, lenders and appraisers need to realize that the contamination problem is fixable and does not need to stop sales.
- ✓ Realtors need to unify their disclosure message.

- ✓ Local officials need to talk together about the issues and develop a leadership role.
- ✓ Lenders need to meet to create a unified lending plan.
- ✓ The school districts for the entire area need to develop a lead education curriculum.

The Jasper County experience may provide excellent insight for Herculaneum and Jefferson County. Facing the issues head-on can protect the assets of Herculaneum and ensure it remains a vibrant, productive community!

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources Announces a
Public Meeting to Discuss Doe Run's Proposed
Haul Route Through City of Herculaneum**

As part of the Settlement Agreement between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Doe Run Company, Doe Run shall periodically assess and propose modifications to the haul route. The first proposal was due July 31, 2002. The purpose of the new haul route is to limit concentrate truck traffic to one route in an effort to minimize contact with occupied residences. The Doe Run Company has proposed three haul routes for approval by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the City of Herculaneum.

The Department of Natural Resources will hold a public meeting in order to receive comments about the proposals. The public meeting will be held

**Thursday, September 12, 2002
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Dr. Gray Music Room
Herculaneum High School, Herculaneum**

The Department of Natural Resources and the City of Herculaneum would like your comments on the proposed haul routes. The department will accept written comments until 5 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2002. Please send copies of written comments to Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Renee Bungart, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176; by fax to 1-573-751-9277; by e-mail to deq@mail.state.mo.us.

People requiring special services or wishing to speak at the meeting can make arrangements by calling 1-800-361-4827 or 1-573-751-4465. Hearing impaired persons may contact the department through Relay Missouri at 1-800-735-2966.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ambient Air Monitoring

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources ambient air monitoring data indicated the following:

First Quarter 2002: All monitors met the ambient standard of 1.5 micrograms of lead per cubic meter of air (ug/m³).

Second Quarter 2002: All monitors met the ambient standard except Broad Street. Doe Run continued to implement measures to reduce air emissions from the smelter facility including removing stockpiled wastes, enclosing the blast furnace, and enclosing the fume handling processes.

Third Quarter 2002: The third quarter started July 1. Doe Run's July data for Broad Street showed 0.88 ug/m³.

Residential Cleanup Progress

Yards: One hundred twenty-eight yards have been replaced. The hot dry summer has hampered yard restoration efforts. EPA is monitoring yards for lawn condition and will reseed where necessary. September/October is the optimum time of the year to germinate and establish lawns. Remember to water your new lawn when needed and avoid extended use until young grass has been mowed twice.

Home Interiors: Seventy-four interiors have been cleaned.

Vacuum Cleaners: EPA has provided 77 residences with the HEPA vacuum cleaners. Free HEPA vacuum cleaners are still available for households that have not received one from EPA or Doe Run and that have lead-contaminated yard soil exceeding 400 ppm.

Soil Sampling/Monitoring for Recontamination

EPA has been sampling soil every month at 20 residences throughout Herculaneum.

We are doing this to monitor the soil lead concentrations. Sampling results have indicated that yards are not being recontaminated with lead.

EPA is looking for several more yards to include in the monthly monitoring. If you would like to have your yard soil included in the monthly monitoring program, please contact EPA's On-Scene Coordinator, Mr. Jim Silver at 636-475-3926.

Interior Dust Sampling/Monitoring

EPA is currently collecting monthly dust samples from the interior of 13 homes. We are monitoring dust lead levels in these homes. The data indicates that dust lead levels vary significantly from month to month in any given home.

EPA would like to include more homes in the monthly monitoring program and encourages any residence with children up to six years old to participate. Please contact EPA's On-Scene Coordinator, Mr. Jim Silver at 636-475-3926 if you would like additional information or would like to participate in the monthly monitoring.

Additional Sampling out to 1.5 Mile Radius from Smelter

As required under Administrative Order, Doe Run is conducting surface soil sampling. The sampling is being done at residences up to 1.5 miles from the smelter.

Sampling results have shown that only 7 percent, or 82 out of 1153 samples, contain lead at levels that pose a health concern, i.e.,

exceed 400 ppm. We encourage everyone to participate in the sampling effort.

The soil sampling is conducted at no cost to you, is relatively non-intrusive, and can be completed in approximately two hours. Should lead contamination exceeding 400 ppm be detected in your yard, the upper one foot of contaminated soil would be replaced with clean soil. Again, this service would be performed at no cost to you.

Site-Specific Interior Lead Dust Standard to be Developed

EPA will be consulting leading experts in lead dust exposure analysis to develop interior cleanup standards for the Herculaneum Site. A Focus Group will be formed to participate in the development process. This group will be made up of representatives from the community, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, health agencies, Doe Run, and EPA.

The mission of the Focus Group will be to review existing studies related to interior lead dust exposure and abatement, review site environmental data, and develop site-specific interior lead dust cleanup standards.

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HERCULANEUM LEAD SMELTER SITE CONTACT LIST

If you have questions, please contact:

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Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry

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636-475-3319

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Site Information

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